

## Assad arrives in Riyadh

RIYADH, May 18 (Agencies). — Syrian President Hafez Assad arrived here today for summit talks with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on the Middle East situation. Official sources said President Assad would tonight meet the Saudi monarch and attend a tripartite summit tomorrow. President Sadat met the U.S. President in Washington last month, while the Syrian head of state had talks with the American leader in Geneva last week. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd is due to have similar discussions with President Carter in Washington.

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Hussein briefs Cabinet on M.E.

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein presided over a Cabinet meeting here Wednesday during which he outlined to Cabinet members the results of his recent visit to the United States and the talks he had had with President Jimmy Carter and is aides on the Palestinian question, the Middle East crisis and bilateral relations. The King described President Carter as fair and courageous, and said that he sensed Mr. Carter's determination to achieve a just Middle East settlement. King Hussein added that he had reiterated to U.S. officials the necessity of total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in June 1967, and of allowing the Palestinian people the right for self-determination.

Volume 2, Number 453

AMMAN, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1977 — JAMADI AL AWAL

Price: 50 fils

### In Vance-Gromyko Geneva meet

## U.S. will ask Soviet Union to persuade PLO to recognise Israel

GENEVA, May 18 (R). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will ask the Soviet Union to persuade the Palestine Liberation Organisation to recognise the existence of Israel, American officials said today.

They said Mr. Vance will tell Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in talks here that the question of Palestinian representation is still the main stumbling-block to reconvening the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

The secretary of state will stress that in the American view this is a problem for the

Arab countries to sort out among themselves.

The officials said Mr. Vance will tell Mr. Gromyko that if a reasonable formula could be found on the question, the United States would be prepared to discuss it with the Israelis.

In view of the amicable relations between the Soviet Union and the PLO, this was an area in which the Russians could play a constructive role in achieving a settlement, they said.

The Middle East question was the original reason for the Vance-Gromyko meeting, beginning at the Soviet mission here this afternoon.

Talks on the goals for a new Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement are first on the agenda, but U.S. officials said they expected little progress on the subject this week.

Mr. Vance's suggestions on the Middle East appear in part to be an attempt to parry an expected Soviet demand that the United States put pressure on Israel to reach a settlement.

Western diplomatic sources said Soviet insistence that an agreement could be reached only if the U.S. applied pressure to Israel had rendered many previous discussions on the Middle East fruitless. This time the U.S. wanted to stress that the Russians could also play a constructive role.

Up to now, the United States, like Israel, has insisted that the PLO give up its goal of dismantling the Jewish state, which is laid down in the organisation's covenant.

The United States has also said that the PLO must recognise the existence of Israel and accept two United Nations resolutions which set out the basis for a Middle East settlement.

The American officials would not say if the United States continued to insist on a change

in the PLO covenant. They said the principle obstacle to reconvening the Geneva conference, which met for only two days in December, 1973, was Palestinian refusal to recognise Israel's existence and accept the two U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Vance also plans to suggest to Mr. Gromyko that the United States and Soviet Union have a regular exchange of views on the Middle East.

The officials said Middle East negotiations would have to be conducted among the parties to the dispute and not between the two outside powers, which are co-chairmen of the Geneva conference.

But it would be useful to have regular meetings instead of the previous ad hoc encounters.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko, began talks here today on the stalled strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) negotiations.

The meeting opened in a conference room in a villa in the grounds of the Soviet diplomatic mission here, shortly after the two ministers signed an agreement renouncing a 1972 peace cooperation pact between the countries.

### Mobutu forecasts end of Shaba war

KINSHASA, May 18 (R). — Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko has said he will announce "in the days to come" the end of the Shaba province war with invaders from Angola, the Zaire news agency Azap reported today.

The president's forecast of a quick end to the fighting, which began two months ago, was made yesterday at West German journalists accompanying Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Herr Genscher flew to Gabon today at the end of a two-day visit to Zaire.

Azap said Zairean forces, which are backed by Moroccan troops, were now advancing on the Shaba towns of Sandona, Apanga and Dilolo near the border with Angola.



Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam (second from left) paid a lightning visit to Amman Wednesday for consultations with Jordanian leaders on the Middle East situation. Mr. Khaddam told reporters before leaving that he had delivered a message from President Assad to His Majesty King Hussein on the Syrian president's talks with President Carter in Geneva last week. Mr. Khaddam was seen off by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf (third from right) at Amman airport. (JNA photo).

## Bomb blast wrecks 2 flats in east Beirut

BEIRUT, May 18 (R). — A powerful bomb blast wrecked two apartments near the headquarters of the rightwing National Liberal Party (NLP) early today in an incident described by the party as another sign of continuing insecurity in Lebanon.

The explosion -- the second apparently aimed at the NLP in just over a month -- caused no casualties.

On April 13, the second anniversary of the rightist attack on a busload of Palestinians which triggered the Lebanese civil war, a huge blast ripped apart a boutique owned by an NLP member.

"This is the kind of thing you can expect," Mr. Dory Chamoun, son of party leader Chamille Chamoun and number two in the NLP hierarchy, said today.

"The state has not reassessed its authority and we have scaled down our own party security. There is a security vacuum."

The bomb went off shortly after midnight with a force estimated at the equivalent of more than 10 kgms of TNT and damaged the homes of Mr. Yussef Nijm and Mr. Anis Berber, who works for the NLP.

Mr. Chamoun declined to specify who he thought was responsible for the explosion.

Last night, an explosion in the southern port of Sidon levelled a four-storey building, slightly wounded two people. Local residents said the bo-

ombs were planted at the entrance to the clinic of a Sidon physician married to a Syrian.

In a separate development earlier yesterday, reliable sources said that officials of the rightwing Phalangist movement today met officers of the Arab peace-keeping force to discuss fighting in northern Lebanon last weekend between a peace-keeping patrol and rightist militia.

It was not known whether they agreed on ways of preventing renewed clashes in the north, where uneasy calm has prevailed since last Sunday.

In Jeddah, in a statement to the Saudi newspaper Al Jezira Arab League Secretary General Mohamoud Riad was quoted today as saying that the league was sparing no efforts to stabilise security in Lebanon.

Mr. Riad said Arab efforts were continuing through the four-man committee in charge of implementing the Riyadh and Cairo Arab League resolutions on the latest truce in Lebanon. The committee was trying to find a formula that would serve all the antagonistic factions, he added.

Mr. Riad said the dispute centred on whether Palestinians were entitled to mount operations against Israel from south Lebanon in accordance with some provisions of the 1969 Cairo agreement.

The Arab League was considering how to amend the agreement to suit the present situation in Lebanon, he added.

When finally complete, the election results should give Likud 41 or 42 seats in the 120-member Knesset (parliament), Labour, which had ruled Israel since the state was created in 1948, retained only 33 of the 51 seats it held in the old house.

Mr. Begin could theoretically form a coalition of rightist groups commanding a slight majority in the Knesset. But under such an arrangement he could come in for strong international pressure to be more conciliatory on the issue of Middle East peace.

The newly-founded Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), which emerged from the election as the third-strongest party, has indicated it would join a Likud-led coalition if the Likud group's foreign policy were greatly changed.

The DMC is expected to end up with 14 seats in the Knesset.

Many Israelis saw the election result as more of a resounding defeat for Labour than a great victory for Likud.

Likud will inherit major economic problems at home. The trade unions, which are connected with the Labour Party,

## Likud tries to mollify its hawkish image after victory at Israeli polls

TEL AVIV, May 18 (R). — Leaders of the stoutly rightwing Likud party today hurried to placate fears about the future of Israel and the Middle East following their election victory which ended an era of Labour Party rule there.

As Israelis assessed the surprise result of yesterday's election, one Likud spokesman claimed his party had "never proclaimed a policy of 'not a square inch to be given up' in its approach to the future of occupied Arab areas, although one plank in the Likud campaign platform called for permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Aides of the 63-year-old Likud leader Menachem Begin, who is now apparently sure to be asked to form Israel's next government, said they hoped for a national coalition.

Such a government would seemingly include such groups as the Labourites, although the defeated party and Likud have been frequently opposed on the question of the occupied areas.

Mr. Begin himself sought to placate American fears of a harder Israeli line on Middle East questions when he said that "the U.S. should not be concerned because of the change in government."

In Washington, White House press secretary Jody Powell said today that President Carter wants to meet the new leader of Israel to discuss Middle East peace negotiations.

Mr. Powell did not comment on Mr. Carter's reaction to the success of the Likud Party in yesterday's elections, except to say that the president had no concerns about dealing with any freely elected government of Israel.

Mr. Begin was rumoured to have suggested to acting Labour Premier Shimon Peres that he retain the defence portfolio in the future cabinet as part of the process of bringing Labour into a national unity coalition.

The exact form of Israel's new policies was not expected to become clear until after protracted negotiations among the various parties over formation of a new coalition.

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Many Israelis saw the election result as more of a resounding defeat for Labour than a great victory for Likud.

Likud will inherit major economic problems at home. The trade unions, which are connected with the Labour Party,

will probably show less pay restraint than under the outgoing government.

Likud's vague economic policies are based on the introduction of more free enterprise in Israel's partially-socialised economy. Experts did not give Likud much chance of success in the face of spiralling inflation which last year reached nearly 40 per cent.

An issue which had been expected to become more pressing after the election was the future of the country's growing and increasingly militant Arab

minority, which numbers close to 500,000.

But the Rakkah communist party, which is in effect the legal voice of Arab nationalist opposition in Israel, won six Knesset seats instead of 10 as had been widely predicted.

Although this was an increase of two seats over the Rakkah result in the 1973 election, yesterday's showing was expected to lessen, for the time being, worries that a showdown was near between Arabs and Jews in the heavily populated areas of Galilee.

## Likud victory seen as hindrance to peace

BEIRUT, May 18 (R). — Arab reaction to the victory of the rightwing Likud party in Israel's general election ranged from predictions that it could increase the chances of another war to fears of further delays in peace moves.

In Amman, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that the election results were proof positive that Israel did not want peace and was bent on territorial expansion at the expense of the Arabs.

Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, said that the Likud victory had dampened hopes for Middle East peace.

In a press statement he said a party known for its intransigence had come to power in Israel at a time when efforts were being made to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Abu Odeh said Likud leader Menachem Begin had declared in a statement on asserting his party's victory that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were an integral part of Israeli territory.

"Such an attitude does not at all indicate that the party to lead Israel in the next stage has any intention of achieving a just and lasting peace for the crisis of the region," he said.

"Our attitude to peace efforts will not change, and we shall seek to achieve peace for all the states of the region."

Damascus Radio said Mr. Begin's victorious party was "the most terrorist, extremist and pig-headed bloc -- and that most inimical to peace."

Mr. Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the Information Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said the Likud victory "brings near the danger of another war. The strong swing towards the right... indicates that the Zionist institution is moving towards preparations to thwart any just peace in the region."

Fears of delay in peace moves were voiced in Egypt, where a foreign ministry source said Israel would now start looking for ways to create a fluid

situation in the Middle East.

In a comment on Mr. Begin's background, the source said that the Likud leader "would not dare to say he refuses to negotiate with so called Palestinian terrorists, being himself a former terrorist."

Mr. Begin commanded the clandestine guerrilla organisation Irgun Zvai Leumi in the last years of the British mandate in Palestine.

President Carter's National Security Adviser, Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, said the election results would not change the relationship between the United States and Israel.

But some U.S. sources have privately expressed dismay at the election result.

One area of American concern would be the hard line the Likud party has taken on the question of any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said Egypt was cool towards Mr. Begin's proposal for talks in a neutral place with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Syrian President Hafez Assad and His Majesty King Hussein.

The impact of the Israeli elections on Middle East peace efforts was regarded in Cairo as likely to be the main topic of summit talks scheduled in Riyadh tomorrow between President Sadat, President Assad and King Khalid of Saudi Arabia.

Although Mr. Begin said that he would press for immediate negotiations with Egypt, Syria and Jordan he made no mention of the Palestinians -- an omission regarded as another sign of his intransigence.

At the United Nations in New York, an Egyptian spokesman said the result of the Israeli elections should not affect the prospects for a resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference because Israel would in any case be "in no position to oppose" a serious United States initiative.

Mr. Carter declined to give further details but the fact that the two opening sessions of the talks were being devoted to SALT was a clear indication that both sides felt there was a chance of movement.

Before their first two and a half hour session today, Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko joined foreign ministers and envoys from 29 other countries at Geneva's Palais des Nations in signing an international convention barring the manipulation of weather and the environment as a weapon of war.

The convention, signed in the presence of United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, showed that "where there is a common will and desire, real progress is possible in resolving the most intractable problems," Mr. Gromyko said.

In contrast to the high hopes he expressed before his last meetings with the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow seven weeks ago, Mr. Vance appeared to have low expectations for any dramatic progress on SALT this week.

## Mondale, Vorster meet on hostile attitudes

VIENNA, May 18 (R). — Amid blanket security, U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and South African Prime Minister John Vorster met today in preparation for a meeting on Southern Africa that could put their countries on a collision course.

With both camps drawing up hardline positions in official briefings over the past few days, a clash on South Africa's racial policies at tomorrow's meeting seems almost inevitable.

Both men had a light list of engagements today before their scheduled seven hours of talks tomorrow, paying separate courtesy calls on Austrian President Rudolph Kirschleger and Prime Minister Bruno Kreisky.

Austrian authorities have deployed more than 1,000 police to maintain security for the talks, the highest-level U.S.-South African meeting ever.

Steel-helmeted police armed with sub-machine guns ringed Schwabach airport as Mr. Mondale flew in today aboard a U.S. air force jet from Madrid, his second stop on a five-nation European tour. Mr. Vorster arrived last night aboard an aircraft of South African Airways.

## Sudan expels Soviet military experts

CAIRO, May 18 (R). — Sudan has told Soviet military experts serving with its army it no longer wants them and it gave them a week to leave the country, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum today.

The Sudanese decision was related to the Soviet government last Thursday, MENA reported. It said three planes with Soviet experts and their families aboard left Khartoum today, but it did not say how many Russians were involved.

Relations between Sudan and the Soviet Union deteriorated following an abortive coup in Khartoum in July, 1974, against the government of President

What the two men will tell each other when they sit down in a former ballroom of the 700-year-old Hofburg Palace, official seat of the Austrian government, has already been broadly outlined by officials on both sides.

Mr. Mondale has said he will tell Mr. Voster of America's opposition to apartheid and explain that the U.S. views internal changes in South Africa as equally important as the question of independence for Namibia and black majority rule for Rhodesia.

South African officials who have come to Vienna as part of Mr. Voster's official party have told reporters here the prime minister, in turn, will tell Mr. Mondale that South Africa's internal affairs are none of his business and warn him that pressure for black rule could encourage communism and racial violence.

How they will proceed from there is the key question of the meeting, Mr. Mondale has stated repeatedly to reporters travelling with him that he wants to listen and learn from Mr. Vorster and hopes that the talks will be constructive. But he candidly stated: "I don't know what the prospects are."

Jaafar Mohammed Nimeiri.

The president is now on an official visit to France where he told a news conference yesterday that the Soviet Union was trying to dominate Africa in "a new form of colonialism."

President Nimeiri discussed buying French arms, including helicopters and AMX-10 tanks, with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

MENA's report today also said Sudan decided to close the Soviet Military Experts' Office attached to the Soviet embassy in Khartoum.

## NATO defence ministers agree to increase defence spending

BRUSSELS, May 18 (Agencies). — NATO defence ministers today announced agreement to increase alliance defence spending to counter a military build-up by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

In a communique following a two-day session of alliance defence ministers, they said they "expressed their concern at the steady expansion of Soviet military capabilities which have greatly increased the power of Warsaw Pact forces."

The ministers noted that the Warsaw Pact forces had become increasingly offensive in posture and were capable of projecting Soviet power throughout the world.

"In the light of these developments, they stressed the urgent need for NATO to maintain and improve its defence capabilities," the communique said.

U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown told a press conference that more defence spending would "enable the alliance to deter a Soviet military threat and prevent the Soviet Union gaining a political advantage by intimidation because of its military readiness."

He added: "NATO has no reasonable alternative but to respond to the Soviet military build-up."

The ministers were told by intelligence services that they estimated the Soviet Union spends at least 11 per cent of its gross national product on defence, while NATO countries on average spend between four and five per cent.

Alliance sources noted that the agreement did not commit any country to the three per

cent increase and there was considerable doubt at NATO headquarters whether some countries, particularly Britain and Italy, could achieve this goal.

The official communique said it was recognised that for some countries "economic circumstances will affect what can be achieved."

The ministers ordered a long-term defence programme to guide the alliance in its military planning over the next seven years.

The sources said the programme will seek to improve the alliance's anti-tank defences -- the Russians have some 19,000 tanks in the central European area compared to NATO's 7,000 -- its sea power and its anti-aircraft defences.

In Moscow, TASS news agency today attacked NATO decision to increase military spending and stated that the

USSR is steadily reducing its own expenditure.

TASS commentator Valentin Ossipov accused U.S. Secretary of Defence Harold Brown of putting pressure on America's allies by using the argument that the USSR was militarily superior.

In 1977, the article said, the United States spent \$113 billion and next year will budget \$120 billions. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, was decreasing its spending.

"The decisions imposed by the United States on the other countries of NATO will not increase security but rather undermine it. The increase in military expenditure will put new hardships on millions of workers in NATO countries who are already suffering cruelly from inflation, unemployment and reductions in welfare spending," TASS said.

## Smith accused of escalating guerrilla war in Rhodesia to ensure U.S. backing

MAPUTO, May 18 (AFP). — Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith is trying to escalate the guerrilla war to a point where the nationalists invited Cuban aid, an act he believed would put the United States behind the Rhodesian government, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young charged today.

Mr. Young told journalists that Mr. Smith's deliberate attempt to escalate the Rhodesian guerrilla war was demon-

strated by an attack deep inside the neighbouring territory of Botswana earlier this week by Rhodesian security forces.

Mr. Young, who heads his country's delegation to the U.N.-sponsored conference on Rhodesia and Namibia (South-west Africa), went on: "I think that Smith's approach is not only due to fail but it is making it more difficult for the West to find a solution."

He cited the attack against Botswana (a country with an army of 1,000 to 1,200 peo-

ple) and the attacks in Mozambique "killing civilians" as examples of the increased obstacles to a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Young added: "He (Ian Smith) is also trying to lure or tempt the liberation movements to bring in Cubans in the hope that we (the U.S.) will react on his behalf."

However, Mr. Young said, the administration of President Jimmy Carter "has assured him for many months that we will not be drawn into the conflict."

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Mr. Begin, former guerrilla chief, could be Israel's next premier

TEL AVIV, May 18 (R). — Menachem Begin, 63, former underground guerrilla who once had a price of 10,000 sterling on his head, tried nine times in 29 years to wrest power from Israel's ruling Labour Party.  
Eight times he failed. On the ninth he succeeded. When polling began yesterday he was confident Israeli voters would at last choose his rightwing Likud alliance as an alternative to the Labour Party which he declared had "fallen asleep at the wheel."  
The pre-election Labour Party campaign described Mr. Begin and his party as drivers who had failed their test eight times and should not be granted a licence on their ninth attempt.  
Mr. Begin did not allow a heart attack about two months ago to interfere with his personal electioneering. His last major public appearance, in a television debate with acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres 48 hours before the poll, showed him alert, but looking somewhat drawn.  
Within the Knesset, Mr. Begin is regarded by both political friends and foes as a brilliant but often naive orator.  
Mr. Begin, slightly built and bespectacled, scarcely looks the part of a man responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Britishers and Arabs.  
Yet he was the man who commanded the clandestine Irgun Zvai Leumi (National Military Organisation) in the last years of the British mandate which ended in Palestine in 1948.  
Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion denounced him as an "outlaw".  
From hideouts in the back street hotels in Tel Aviv, Mr. Begin directed the Irgun in terrorist operations that included blowing up a wing of Jerusalem's King David Hotel, then the headquarters for much of the British military command. One hundred people were killed in that operation.



Mr. Menachem Begin.

## A face-lift for Likud

The rightwing Likud bloc had no sooner received positive indication that it was about to emerge as the largest single party in Israel following the general elections on May 17 than it started to construct a more flattering and less hawkish image abroad, a face-lift as it were.  
The powers that be in Likud are no doubt aware that Mr. Menachem Begin, who led the party to victory, and was a big vote-getter in Israel does not look quite the same from the outside. To the British and the Arabs, in fact to a large section of the world at large, Mr. Begin is a one-time leader of the underground Irgun organisation which blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing a hundred people at one go. In the words of Israel's founding father, Ben Gurion, he is an 'outlaw'. He is also the frenzied orator in the Knesset who has not left any doubt in anyone's mind as to his opposition to giving back the occupied West Bank -- which automatically rules him out as a viable peace negotiator with the Arabs. The Americans, for one, would be deeply embarrassed if they had to back such a man.  
There is a strong possibility that Mr. Begin could single-handedly establish to the remaining sceptics in the world at large that Israel is responsible through its intransigence for the lack of progress towards peace.  
To ward off this possibility, the Likud bosses are trying to avoid forming a purely rightwing coalition, for that would let the cat out of the bag. Instead, they are sounding out the Labour Party, the big loser in the elections, but still in command of a quarter of the votes in the Knesset, to see if a centre-right coalition can be worked out.  
At the same time, Mr. Begin's aides are going around saying that he had not been serious all along in ruling out withdrawal from the West Bank. They are putting it about that Likud never maintained a "we will not give up one square inch" policy -- although factions within Likud clearly still maintain that attitude.

When the manhunt gained momentum in the years 1945-47, Mr. Begin often evaded his pursuers by hiding behind secret trapdoors, even disguised as an orthodox rabbi.  
The bitter feud between Mr. Begin and Mr. Ben Gurion carried over into the Knesset to which Mr. Begin was elected in 1949, after the disbanding of the 3,000-member Irgun.  
But when Mr. Ben Gurion died in 1973, Mr. Begin was one of the chief mourners at his funeral, both men -- statesman and underground chief -- having acknowledged the role of the other in founding the new state of Israel.  
Mr. Begin, born in August 1913 in Brest-Litovsk, then part of Poland but now in the Soviet Union, took a law degree at Warsaw University in the early 1930s.  
Arrested in Poland at the start of World War II he was deported to Siberia. When Germany attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, he was released and arrived in Palestine as a Polish army soldier in 1942.  
With the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and the disbanding of Irgun, he assumed leadership of the ultranationalist Herut (Freedom) Party, founded by members of

action outside Europe had dwindled to almost negligible proportions and without a major policy change there was no prospect of its increasing.  
"The only credible extra-European forces currently in being are the British and French ballistic missile submarines, a few large surface vessels and some air transport, and the circumstances in which any of these could be used are severely restricted," Mr. Archer said.  
He added that politicians paid lip service to the importance of trade but "too rarely is it recognised that the whole fabric of West European civilisation has been reared on trade and control of trade routes.  
"In a few short years, however, this control has been destroyed -- not lost to a superior power, but deliberately and wantonly destroyed as a political act."  
He was writing in the foreword to the book, part of an annual series on comparative military, naval and air strengths published by Jane's, an independent group.

NEW DELHI, May 18 (R). — The Indian National Congress Party, with fresh defections from its ranks every day, faces a crucial test of survival in state elections next month.  
The once-mighty organisation which governed India for 30 years after independence in 1947 has been torn apart since its shattering defeat in general elections last March.  
Voting takes place in 10 of the country's 22 states between June 10 and 14. At present the Congress Party is more deeply divided than ever and political observers predict another major poll debacle.  
There has been a mass exodus from the party since its All-India Conference here early this month when the former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi demonstrated that she still held sway over the party leadership.  
Mrs. Gandhi had her candidate Brahmananda Reddy, Home Minister in her last cabinet, elected as the New Congress president but that now appears a pyrrhic victory.  
Key party leaders left in a steady stream, saying that the party showed no signs of trying to adjust to the new political situation. The first to go was former Parliamentary Affairs Minister and Chief Opposition Whip in Parliament, Mr. Kotha Raghuramiah.  
He was followed by Mr. Dinesh Singh, a former External Affairs Minister, former Minister of State for Transport and Shipping Mr. H. M. Trivedi and a growing number of former M.P.s and State

## Western trade routes undefended, expert says

LONDON, May 19 (R). — A defence expert warned Western Europe today that pre-occupation with an East-West military confrontation had left its trade routes around the world vulnerable to attack.  
"Europe may choose to leave the business of strategic nuclear warfare to the USA, but it cannot expect its great ally also to arrange for its supplies of food, oil and other raw materials and protect its world trade routes," stated Mr. Denis Archer.  
Mr. Archer, writing as editor in the latest edition of Jane's Infantry Weapons, published today, said that much of U.S. equipment spending went on high-technology arms appropriate to a major war against an opponent with comparable weapons, "particularly to a war with Russia on the European continent and adjacent oceans."

the Congress Working Committee, the party's high command, under Mr. Reddy said he would not contest the state elections.  
He said he felt "totally out of tune with many of those who still control our great party today." The "coterie of persons who stand indicted before the people" were still in control, he added.  
The June 10-14 polling will be in the main north and central Indian states where the Congress was totally routed in the national elections.  
States going to the polls are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, traditional bastions of Congress Party support. West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the south. Assembly elections are also due in disputed Jammu and Kashmir State in late June or early July.  
The Janata Party government has timed the elections to wreak maximum havoc on the Congress Party.  
When Prime Minister Morarji Desai ordered the dissolution of nine state assemblies last month, most of them had run more than their original five-year term. But state elections were not due in Uttar Pradesh until 1980.  
The immediate need for dissolution was to prevent the Congress Party pushing through the candidate of its choice as India's new president in August. There had been unconfirmed reports that Mrs. Gandhi might contest the post.  
The president is voted in office for a five-year term by

the Irgun. He has led Israel's main opposition with an iron hand ever since.  
His party's alignment with two other rightwing splinter groups to form the Likud bloc in September 1973 created the second largest parliamentary group, which was a constant threat to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's fragile Labour-led coalition.  
Likud, a Hebrew word which can be loosely translated as "Unity", is dominated by Mr. Begin's Herut Party.  
The party platform says a government led by Likud would agree to withdraw from parts of territory captured in Sinai and the Golan Heights from Egypt and Syria in the June 1967 war.  
But it would refuse to make any concessions in regard to the West Bank and firmly rejects the idea of establishing a Palestinian state beside Israel.  
The Likud calls for the encouragement of private businesses as part of a plan to cure Israel's running inflation.  
It also stresses the need for limiting the power of the strong Labour-dominated Histadrut trades union federation, which owns much of Israel's heavy industry.  
The party has said a Likud-led government would be able to convince Washington that Israel should be a strong fortress against communist penetration in the Middle East.  
Mr. Begin, carefully groomed, using his fiery, at times frenzied oratorical powers to considerable effect, lashed out in parliament for years against what he called the government's "dovish" policies.

an electoral college made up of the two Houses of Parliament plus members of all the State Assemblies. The Congress, through its domination of the State Assemblies, would have easily outvoted the new government.  
The state elections are also aimed at ending Congress Party domination of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). Its members are elected on a proportional basis by the State Assemblies.  
Some political observers here believed that the Congress might have provided the Janata Party with a tough fight in the states if it had been able to shed its repressing post-emergency image and put forward a new set of leaders. But this has not happened.  
"The Congress Party has learned nothing and Mrs. Gandhi has learned nothing," one political insider lamented. Newspaper editorials echoed this view.  
The once staunchly pro-Congress Hindustan Times said the party stood condemned by its use of the internal emergency and nothing had been heard at its national conference to suggest that it had learned the right lessons or was more than mildly repentant.  
Congress standing is also reflected in its difficulties in finding enough suitable candidates to contest all the seats in some states. By contrast, there has been virtual stampede for Janata Party tickets.  
Most political analysts now believe that the real battle for control of the Congress Party, or what is left of it, will take place after the state elections.

## Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawad

### Strive for the best.....

It seems that part of the developmental drive throughout the Middle East means that every country will become the leader in some field or another. For example, Bahrain seeks to become the banking centre of the Middle East. Saudi Arabia wants to be the petrochemical giant of the area. Sudan aims to be the Arab World's great food producer. Dubai wants to be the drydock capital for shipbuilding and repairing.  
This idea stuck in my mind the other day, as I was taking one of my regular mind-refreshing strolls around the Third Circle. I thought it was a good thing that Arab countries now strive to develop expertise in certain areas, but I thought it unfair for all this development to take place without something similar happening here in Jordan. After a few minutes of walking around the Third Circle area, an idea came to me. Why not have a similar specialisation here in Amman, and also combine this with the very important desire of most of us to preserve the historical treasures and cultural values of Arab civilisation? So I have another suggestion: The Third Circle should be developed into the chaos capital of the Middle East.  
Chaos ("Fawda" in Arabic) is an integral part of Arab life. But as we become more technologically developed, we are in danger of leaving our chaotic ways behind us, and I think this is unfair to our children. The concept of fawda is part of every Arab's heritage and personality, and I think we have a unique but fleeting chance these days to combine the best of our chaotic ways with the new technological advances of the modern society that is springing up all around us.

rival those of Cairo and Beirut. Amman would no longer have to strive to be the best Arab city in one field or another. It would show off the Third Circle as the finest Arab chaos to be found anywhere between Morocco and the Gulf.  
We could arrange special Fawda Fairs every Friday afternoon, when all traffic policemen would be given the day off and entire families given special prizes to stroll around the area for a few hours. To top it all off, outdoor karate movies could be shown inside the circle, as this is sure to attract every Jordanian between the ages of 6 and 26.  
For tourists, we could arrange a unique half-day or full-day Chaos Spectacular. This would involve taking the tourists, in groups no less than 300 at a time, around a specially designed circuit that would give them a glimpse of every kind of chaos practised in the Arab World.  
They would start with a mock news conference on the front steps of the Information Ministry (for a touch of official chaos), then they would go and apply for tele and telephone lines at the Telecommunications Corporation (for semi-official chaos with a technological flavour), then they would take their choice of the several banks in the area and open a savings account (for some private sector chaos) and finally, as the coup de grace, they would all have to go and try to reserve a room at the Intercontinental Hotel.  
To keep things moving, the tourists would have to cross the street in front of the hotel at least three times, and they'd have to try and walk around the Third Circle exterior sidewalk at least once during the day (but not after lunch when everybody is taking a nap). For tourists who are extra strong and up for a special challenge, they would have to go up to a traffic policeman at some time during the day and ask directions on how to get to Jerash.  
We could also initiate annual Chaos Contests, when we'd invite the most chaotic people from every Arab country. The climax of the contest would be to have all the Arab delegations go to lunch, and then watch them fight it out as they try to decide who pays the bill.

## India's Congress Party faces crucial test of survival as defections tear it apart

Legislative Assembly members.  
In addition, the Congress Party government in far northeastern Mizoram resigned a year before its term of office was over.  
The Chief Minister of India's newest state, Kazi Lhendup Dorji of Sikkim, announced that the Congress organisation there was moving over en bloc to the Janata Party.  
The Congress had earlier lost control of the Tripura Assembly and its government in the key northeastern state of Assam seems on the verge of collapse. Thirteen Congress members of the Assam Assembly have resigned in the past two weeks.  
But former Congress President Dev Kant Barooah, who comes from Assam, has denied press reports that he is about to lead a big walkout from the party in his home state.  
Former Health Minister Dr. Karan Singh and the ex-Chief Minister of West Bengal Siddhartha Shankar Ray have also denied newspaper reports that they are about to leave the party. But both have been very critical of the way it has functioned recently.  
Dr. Singh, in an open letter to Mr. Reddy, said the only way for the party to re-emerge as a major national force was by sustained and ruthless inspection and a cleansing of its ranks.  
It had learned little from the election defeat and seemed impervious to the tremendous political transformation that had taken place in India, he said.  
Mr. Ray declined to serve on

the Congress Working Committee, the party's high command, under Mr. Reddy said he would not contest the state elections.  
He said he felt "totally out of tune with many of those who still control our great party today." The "coterie of persons who stand indicted before the people" were still in control, he added.  
The June 10-14 polling will be in the main north and central Indian states where the Congress was totally routed in the national elections.  
States going to the polls are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, traditional bastions of Congress Party support. West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the south. Assembly elections are also due in disputed Jammu and Kashmir State in late June or early July.  
The Janata Party government has timed the elections to wreak maximum havoc on the Congress Party.  
When Prime Minister Morarji Desai ordered the dissolution of nine state assemblies last month, most of them had run more than their original five-year term. But state elections were not due in Uttar Pradesh until 1980.  
The immediate need for dissolution was to prevent the Congress Party pushing through the candidate of its choice as India's new president in August. There had been unconfirmed reports that Mrs. Gandhi might contest the post.  
The president is voted in office for a five-year term by

an electoral college made up of the two Houses of Parliament plus members of all the State Assemblies. The Congress, through its domination of the State Assemblies, would have easily outvoted the new government.  
The state elections are also aimed at ending Congress Party domination of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). Its members are elected on a proportional basis by the State Assemblies.  
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## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

The Israeli general election is the main topic discussed editorially by local newspapers. The papers reflect the belief that it would not lead to any change in the Israeli attitude to the Middle East crisis.  
AL RAJ says that as far as "we are concerned, the prime importance is how the Israelis will face the Arab peace offensive... And proposed peace talks supposed to start by the end of this year."  
Israel hates peace... because peace would stop Israel before it could achieve two main objectives: First, the realisation of the "Biblical prophecy" as they imagine it, outlined by Mr. Ben Gurion who says that the boundaries of Israel extend "from the Nile to the Euphrates", and the second is moulding an Israeli society by gathering Jews from around the world and convincing them after being brought to Palestine that they face extermination by 100 million Arabs around them," the paper says.  
Should peace be realised the Jews would lose the strongest

reason behind their cohesion and solidarity as shown by Zionism, the paper says.  
The paper thinks that the Israeli general election would give balanced results that would not give overwhelming majority to any party. This would allow the easy downfall of any future Israeli government, which means gaining more time to pre-empt any peace offensive and give Israel the time it needs to realise its two main objectives, the paper concludes.  
AL DUSTOUR asserts that the result of the Israeli election, whatever it was would not be of real significance to the peace battle in the region.  
The Israeli conflicting parties, the paper says, unite under one aim, that is holding occupied Arab territories and trying to devour more lands, whatever tactics the seemingly different Israelis would follow.  
The fear of peace is shared by all Israeli parties and peace constitutes a disintegration element to the Israeli society, the paper says.

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Handwritten signature in Arabic.

# Prince Hassan visits industrial plants

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan toured a number of factories Wednesday.

These included the iron and steel and worsted and textile factories, the paper mill and a fodder plant.

Prince Hassan visited all sections of these factories and was briefed on their work, output and future plans.

The director of the textile plant told Prince Hassan that its daily output amounts to 13 tons. A total of 300 has been exported to Syria this year. He said production will be increased so as to export JD 13 million worth annually after the introduction of three working shifts, instead of the present one.

His Highness was accompanied by the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmeddine Dajani, the under-secretary at the Department of Customs, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the director of the Industrial Development Bank and other officials.

## Hussein receives credentials of Saudi ambassador

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received the credentials of Mr. Ibrahim Sultan, the new Saudi Ambassador to Jordan.

The King lauded the fraternal relations linking him and the Saudi monarch and the strong ties between the two kingdoms.

He asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to Saudi King Khalid and the Saudi princes.

The ambassador paid tribute to the fraternal spirit linking the two brotherly countries.

## UNRWA RECEIVES \$2.4m FROM SAUDI ARABIA

AMMAN (R). — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has received \$2.4 million from the Saudi government, UNRWA announced Wednesday.

A press release said the sum represented Saudi Arabia's regular contribution for the years 1976 and 1977.

In 1975, the Saudi government had raised its regular contribution to UNRWA from \$600,000 to \$1,200,000.

## SULTAN QABUS HERE TODAY

AMMAN (JNA). — Sultan Qabus Ibn Said of Oman starts a short private visit to Jordan Thursday at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, according to a statement issued by the Royal Court Wednesday.

## Arar opens government complex in Zarqa

ZARQA (JNA). — Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar opened a new government complex here Wednesday.

Mr. Arar afterwards presided over a meeting of Zarqa officials to discuss problems in the district and study ways to improve public services.

The mayor of Zarqa reviewed the district's water needs

and the necessity of dealing with industrial wastes dumped in the Zarqa stream.

Mr. Arar said he visited Zarqa to prepare a report on its needs for the Cabinet.

The Cabinet will hold one of its sessions in Zarqa soon as part of its policy to hold such meetings in various parts of the kingdom, he added.

## ARAB COMMERCE MEET URGES TIGHTER IMPLEMENTATION OF ARAB BOYCOTT

DAMASCUS, May 18 (R). — Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture today recommended banning all dealing with foreign establishments which refuse to cooperate with Arab boycott of Israel offices.

This was one of several recommendations adopted by the chambers at the end of their 21st conference, which lasted four days.

Delegates from Chambers of Commerce in the European Economic Community and Japan attended the Damascus meetings as observers.

A conference statement said Arab businessmen reiterated their "firm adherence" to the Arab boycott of Israel.

"Foreign establishments or companies refusing to cooperate with the Arab boycott system, using local legislation as a pretext, such as the recent American laws... should be banned from undertaking all sorts of activities in the Arab countries," they said.

The conference described recent American

legislation against the Arab boycott system as "a new imperialist example of interference in the basic sovereignty of independent states."

It said the U.S. "is the beneficiary from trade exchanges with the Arab countries, as its exports to these states totalled \$30,000 million in a single year."

"This is in addition to U.S. imports of oil and gas from the Arab countries," it added.

The conference recommended setting up a special fund to "support Arab steadfastness in occupied Palestine and provide loans to Arab municipalities and institutions there."

It also called for "backing the confrontation states in view of the heavy burden they are shouldering for the national battle."

Other recommendations included undertaking joint Arab economic projects and continuing contacts with similar chambers in foreign countries with the aim of establishing relations with them in the interest of both sides.



His Highness Prince Hassan looks over a piece of machinery at the iron and steel plant during a visit to several factories Wednesday. (JNA photo).

At recent convention in Washington

## Arab-Americans strike against prejudice

AMMAN (J.T.). — Ways to combat prejudice against Arabs in the United States was the topic of discussion at the fifth annual convention of the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA) held in Washington recently.

The convention stressed the need to increase general public awareness of the Arab-American, elevate his children's sense of ethnic consciousness, and correct what he feels are unfattering, inaccurate or simplistic stereotypes of Arab people abroad.

The convention was advised that "ethnic pride starts in the home." Parents should examine their children's school textbooks, and if possible, "do a little slide show" of their own to reveal the rich heritage of the Arabs.

The NAAA distributed instructions on "how to make an Arab culture kit." Audio-visual materials, records, information packets of Arab countries, flags, musical instruments, articles of clothing, books, posters and slides should be distributed to central libraries, which in turn, would place them in schools to eliminate misunderstandings about Arabs, the NAAA advised.

Ethnic pride in Arabic names was emphasized by Raff G. Ellis, master of ceremonies during the annual banquet.

Where formerly Arabian immigrants anglicized their names to fit into the American community, this was no longer done by American Arabs who are proud of their Arabic names, he said.

On the subject of stereotyped images of Arabs in the media, George Attiyeh, head of the Near Eastern section of the U.S. Library of Congress, said: "The cause of the distorted image of the Arab was founded in Europe and perpetuated in the United States."

He asserted that school textbooks often have mis-information about the Arabs, give little space to the subject and are

not at all flattering.

"There is an ignorance of Arab civilization and its culture. In the textbooks," he said. "It does not stress the great Arab poets, its scientists. To portray the Arab as a fanatic, backward and submissive is an exaggeration of our personality."

He also criticized the popular movie version of the Arab as a romantic bedouin lover.

"Although this is a colourful picture of the Arab, nevertheless it is not true. The Arab World is not the bedouin desert world. In fact, most of the Arabs are from the urbanised world," he said.

Lorraine Abdul Rahim Carter, a consultant on the Middle East affairs, stated that the present energy crisis was being used to further a false portrayal of the Arab.

She recommended, as did Alixa Naff, Executive Secretary of the Middle East Education Trust, that the popular impression of the sloven or the rich Arab that appears in the media should be corrected.

Ms. Carter said that Arabs in America must exercise their rights by immediately challenging wrongful media impressions of the Arabs by directly appealing to newspaper editors and the television stations and networks.

"Each Arab-American must take it upon himself to correct this misinformation," she said. "For instance, concerning oil prices -- the blame is never placed on others such as Iranians, Venezuelans or Canadians, only the Arabs."

Nick Thimmesch, a syndicated newspaper columnist agreed that protests should be made to the media executives when they felt Arabs had been unfairly represented.

A protest should be in the form of a personal visit to members and officials of the media, he said: "Sit down with the editor. You've got a job to do in this country. Stand up to them. Come prepared with some facts, if you have a case

to make," he stressed.

Nicholas von Hoffman, another syndicated columnist also criticised unfair stereotypes.

"We're painfully aware of the stereotyped Arab in cartoons. If we do not see them as greedy and grasping, we see them as ignorant, with their Rolls Royces and harem girls," he said.

During the convention, held May 12-15, one afternoon was set aside for the delegates to meet with their congressmen and senators.

Joseph Baroody, a Washington, D.C. advertising and public relations executive, succeeded Mr. Minor George of Cleveland, Ohio, as President of NAAA, a political organization representing three million Arab-Americans.

## Water recycling plant mooted British trade team concludes visit

AMMAN (J.T.). — A 14-member trade mission from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry ends its visit here Thursday. It has been investigating the demand here for British goods and promoting trade relations and joint ventures between the two countries.

Lord Colgrain, leader of the mission, told the Jordan Times: "You cannot deal with a market unless you visit it and see it for yourself. It is better to get first-hand information rather than rely on second-hand information which may be misleading."

The members of the delegation, who arrived here from Damascus a week ago, are here on an individual basis to see what openings exist for their products.

Mr. Kaspar, General Manager in charge of exports for Anglo-Nordic Thermal Holdings, stated that he was trying to convince people to adopt the new type of radiator connector he is offering.

Mr. Hardinge, Sales Manager of the Bivwater Treatment Company, outlining the projects that his company is interested in, said that he had discussed water treatment projects for the Yarmouk River and King Talal Dam.

Bivwater's work involves sedimentation, demineralisation and other kinds of water treatment.

Mr. Hardinge explained that his company may offer a complete plant for water recycling, if such a project materialises here.

Mr. Hardinge added that both Minister of Tourism Ghalib Barakat and Amman's Mayor, Mr. Ma'n Abu Nuwwar, had shown interest in water devices offered by the company, such as artificial rivers and swimming pools with artificial wave-making machinery.

Such possibilities are attractive since a holiday resort and national park are planned for King Talal Dam as well as an indoor swimming pool at the Hussein Youth City.

GKN International representative Mr. Rochford met with traders requiring a wide range of components used in vehicles and in the construction industry.

The GKN representative has also approached the Industrial Development Bank to look into the possibility of participating in joint ventures as well as an indoor swimming pool at the Hussein Youth City.

Lord Colgrain said in conclusion that the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry was interested in finding out more about the joint Jordanian-Syrian projects now under consideration.

"We will definitely be interested in learning about their progress in the future, and some members would certainly like to be involved," he stated.

## TRAFFIC DIVERTED TODAY FOR ARMY REHEARSALS

AMMAN (JNA). — Traffic on a number of roads will be diverted on Thursday while the army rehearses for Silver Jubilee, Independence and Army Day, the Directorate of Public Security announced Wednesday.

The diversion of traffic will take place from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. from the Suweileh to the Sports City crossroads for cars coming from Amman. Cars leaving Amman for Suweileh will take the road parallel to the University of Jordan Hospital and the university campus before taking the main road.



Her Highness Princess Basma Wednesday visited a textile factory, where she examined the working conditions of the female staff and listened to their problems. Earlier she met Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni and the inspector of labour to discuss problems faced by female workers.

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# Carter rejects idea of trade barriers to keep out foreign cars

LOS ANGELES, May 18 (R). — President Carter yesterday rejected the idea of trade barriers to keep foreign cars out of the United States.

"I can think of no more disastrous assumption for the American automobile industry than that we cannot successfully compete with foreign companies that produce and sell such cars," Mr. Carter added.

He received a standing ovation from the auto union members when he declared: "We can compete and we will compete successfully."

"The solution lies in using our great American ingenuity to design and produce the right cars for the future," Mr. Carter said in a speech prepared for delivery to a convention of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW). The union had advocated the trade-barrier approach.

The president told the UAW delegates that they and he had "honest differences of opinion over some aspects" of his proposals for conserving energy.

UAW Leader Leonard Woodcock has criticised the proposals because of their restrictions on big, "gas-guzzling" cars.

Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal said Monday that the Carter administration was considering excluding foreign cars from a plan which would grant big tax rebates to American buying cars that save on fuel.

Speaker Thomas O'Neill of the House of Representatives, said Mr. Carter's energy plans are clearly in trouble but Congress would pass a conservation program.

Mr. O'Neill, a Democrat, made his assessment as administration officials went through a second day of hard questions before a house committee examining the bulk of the energy programme.

The Democratic speaker predicted that Congress would approve higher taxes on cars. He said this would be easier than passing a petrol tax.

Mr. Charles Schultze, President of the Council of Economic Advisors, told the house committee that the administration rejected petrol rationing as an alternative to the tax programme since it would develop into a system where government bureaucrats made all the major decisions.

Another administration official, Assistant Secretary of State Julius Katz, said the government "will be making the strongest possible effort" with oil producing countries to try to get their cooperation to meet the global energy challenge.

"The lesson which the oil producers must draw from recent global economic history is that their new-found power must be exercised with restraint and responsibility," he said.

He added that their short-term gains from added oil earnings would be undermined by global inflation and by inflation in their own countries.

# OPEC members are trying to close oil price gap

VIENNA, May 18 (R). — Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were making a concerted effort to revert to a single price structure, OPEC Secretary General Ali Mohammed Al-Jaidah said today.

But Mr. Jaidah added in a statement issued by OPEC headquarters here that there had been no final settlement yet on a single price and that it was premature to speculate on when such a decision will be reached.

Mr. Jaidah's statement followed a report in the authoritative magazine Middle East Economic Survey that 11 of the 13 OPEC states had decided not to implement their decision to increase oil prices by a further five per cent on July 1 after raising prices by 10 per cent last January.

The magazine said the decision would be announced on Friday.

OPEC's pricing policy was thrown into disarray when Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates only increased their prices by five per cent this year and said they would not impose the second-stage rise.

There has been widespread speculation since that they may boost their prices by three per cent this July in an effort to close the oil price gap.

The magazine said the decision to drop the July increase came after a tour of Middle Eastern oil producing nations last month by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who has been trying to find a solution to the two-tier structure.

Saudi Arabia, along with Kuwait and Qatar, have denied the magazine report, saying no decision has been taken.

OPEC ministers are due to hold their next meeting in Stockholm on July 12 — well after the second increase is due. But the ministers have expressed their desire to continue contacts on resolving the dispute.

# Greece complains at slow entry into EEC

MITILINI, Greece, May 18 (AFP). — Greek parliamentarians Tuesday complained of slow progress in current negotiations on the entry of Greece into the European Economic Community.

Professor Ioannis Pezmozoglou, Head of the Greek Delegation to a two-day meeting of a joint EEC-Greek Parliamentary Committee held at this resort on the Aegean Island of Lesbos, said at the opening of the talks that the Brussels negotiations were marking time.

He implied that the talks were being held up because the EEC countries wanted to achieve a "global solution" to problems arising from a possible widening of the community by the entry of such countries as Portugal and Spain as well.

Prof. Pezmozoglou also affirmed that the EEC countries had failed to make up for the ground lost through the "freezing" of the 1962 association agreement between the EEC and Greece in the days of the "colons" regime, although

# France aims to save energy

PARIS, May 18 (R). — The French government's aim to limit France's oil import bill to a maximum 55 billion francs (€6.4 billion) this year should be achieved according to energy saving results so far known, a cabinet communique said today.

This year's target is four billion francs (€469 million) more than last year's, which the foreign trade ministry said was not exceeded, with 1976 domestic oil consumption totalling 114.55 million tonnes.

The communique said the cabinet had agreed on a draft bill for new energy saving measures, including controls on domestic water heating, and insulation standards in building construction.

# ISO sets monetary codes

GENEVA, May 18 (R). — The quetzal, the gourde and the pa'anga now have code names to ensure their worldwide recognition, the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) announced yesterday.

The Geneva-based ISO said it had drawn up an international standardised code for representing currencies and funds, covering virtually every established currency in the world.

Announcing the agreement, Mr. Geoffrey Miller of the British Standards Institution (BSI) said the codes were developed to speed inter-bank transactions but he hoped they would also find a wider application in other industries.

Mr. Miller said he did not expect the development would affect the man in the street, who would continue to use the familiar symbols for currencies.

But the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Tele-communication (SWIFT) was already using the codes, the 80-state ISO said.

Under the system, the United States dollar is known as USD, the Swiss franc becomes CHF, the Guatemalan quetzal GQ, the Haitian gourde HG and the Tongan pa'anga TP.

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As from Sat. 21 until Thurs., May 26, 1977

# U.S. and Europe receive most OPEC investments

WASHINGTON, May 18 (R). — Oil exporting countries in the past four years have amassed staggering financial surpluses of up to \$145 billion which have been invested mostly in the United States and Europe.

The statistics, compiled by the U.S. Treasury, were in a State Department letter released by congressional sources.

The letter, dated May 14,

was from Assistant Secretary of State Julius Katz to Congressman Charles Vanik, Chairman of the House of Representatives Trade Subcommittee, and analysed investments by the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The treasury estimated OPEC surpluses in the four years since oil prices began going up at a sharply quickened pace ranged between \$135 and \$145 billion.

Before the 1973 Arab boycott imposed in retaliation for U.S. support of Israel during the Arab-Israeli war that year, OPEC surpluses totalled \$6 billion.

The Katz letter said OPEC investments in the United States had risen spectacularly from about \$1 billion at the end of 1972 to more than \$32 billion through this March.

Most of the investments have been in U.S. Treasury securities — \$18 billion worth. Nearly \$9 billion went into U.S. bank deposits and over \$8 billion into federal and corpora-

rate bonds and U.S. corporate stocks.

The Katz letter noted that in recent months "an increase in proportion" of oil exporting country investments in the U.S. have been long-term, with an emphasis on debt securities. There has been little outright purchases of businesses, called direct investment, according to the analysis.

OPEC countries have made heavy investments in the Euro banking market with an estimated \$22.5 billion in 1974, \$8 billion in 1975 and \$10.5 billion in 1976.

Britain received \$7.5 billion in OPEC investments in 1974, \$250 million in 1975 and just under \$1 billion in 1976, according to the letter.

In the last three years, other unidentified developed countries have received nearly \$22 billion and less developed countries \$16 billion.

Communist countries have received nearly \$4 billion while international financial institutions have got \$10 billion.

# Iranian prince stirs up controversy over hunting of endangered wildlife

LIMA, May 18 (R). — A half brother of the Shah of Iran is at the centre of a major wildlife controversy here after being given permission by the Peruvian president to shoot a species of bear in danger of extinction.

Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi has been in pursuit of the spectacled bear, an Andean mountain species whose numbers, according to Peruvian conservationists, have been reduced to no more than 800 to 1,000.

The presidential decree, announced in the official gazette, also allowed the 52-year-old Iranian prince to shoot a taruca, a rare Andean deer.

The capture and killing of both the spectacled bear and taruca are banned and punishable under normal Peruvian law.

Prince Abdorreza said his arrival here that he wanted the bear for exhibition in Tehran's natural science museum.

A spokesman for the World Wildlife Fund in Morges, Switzerland, said that the WWF has sent a cable to Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez urging him to withdraw "the permit granted for hunting this endangered species (the spectacled bear) which is contrary to all conservation efforts and likely to create adverse publicity for the Peruvian government."

The spokesman said the cable had been followed up by a letter.

In letters to Peruvian newspapers and magazines and in interviews, conservationists

said the Iranian prince was given the go-ahead after a meeting with President Morales Bermudez, in the course of which closer Iranian financial ties with Peru were promised.

Senator Felipe Benavides, a businessman and conservationist who has acquired an international reputation for his campaign to save another rare Andean animal, the vicuña, from extinction, said:

"The prince has clearly used his position as one of the world's richest men to obtain a permit nobody else would get. If he kills that bear, I will declare him enemy number one of Peru."

The English language Lima Times magazine said Prince Abdorreza and Senator Benavides exchanged bitter words when they met for dinner in Lima in early May.

"I am a better conservationist than you are," the Iranian prince told Senator Benavides, according to the magazine.

"Even if he (the prince) does get to Lima with the dead bear no airline will touch it," Senator Benavides told the Times. "Under an international agreement, they are not allowed to carry pelts of endangered species."

Peruvian conservationists say that if the prince so badly wants a spectacled bear for "cultural purposes", as the special presidential decree states, why does he not capture one alive and ship it to a Tehran zoo?

"This is what the Chinese are doing with their pandas

and this is what ought to be done with our rarest species," said one in a newspaper interview.

Three years ago, General Raul Castro, Cuba's Deputy Premier, Defence Minister and brother of President Fidel, visited Peru and was taken on a monkey hunt. Monkey hunting is also banned and there was a major outcry at the time.

"Not only did he hunt them, he also ate them," Senator Benavides angrily recalled.

"Now we have an Iranian prince hunting our rarest species."

He described the bear as very beautiful, shy, difficult to find and a traditionally highly prized trophy for big game hunters.

A spokesman for the fauna preservation society in London said the numbers and distribution of the spectacled bear had been markedly reduced in Peru in recent years. The taruca, which was easy to hunt, had been completely wiped out at lower altitudes.

Prior to setting off to hunt in mountainous jungle east of the ancient Inca capital of Cusco, Prince Abdorreza denied that the spectacled bear faced extinction.

He returned to Lima recently without having shot a bear. But he did manage to kill a taruca.

It seems unlikely that he will now gain a spectacled bear trophy as no other hunting trip was planned before his scheduled departure from Peru.

# Frost destroys 15 to 20% of Brazilian coffee crop

LONDON, May 18 (AFP). — Between 15 and 20 per cent of the coffee crop in the Brazilian state of Parana was this week destroyed by frost, latest reports reaching the London coffee mart said today.

The crop was earlier forecast at between four million and five million bags (each of 60 kilos), although some estimates even gave six million.

Market dealers said they expected to wait until early next week before gaining a realistic idea of the frost's effects.

One dealer said today: "As things are, nobody wants to sell. Cost danger will persist in Brazil for another three months and until that is over, people

prefer to hold on to the coffee they've got."

Today's reports in London followed a Brazilian Coffee Institute's denial yesterday that its experts had discovered frost damage in Parana, as a Sao Paulo newspaper had reported.

But a spokesman for the same institute said in New York that violent winds and frosts had hit the crop in Parana, which accounts for some 30 per cent of Brazil's output.

On the London mart today prices for July jumped up to £3,701 per ton, but fell back to £3,575 before rallying again to £3,610.

At one point the rate was roughly £60 below last night's close.

# Venezuelan minister praises Carter's sense of justice

PARIS, May 18 (R). — A chief Third World negotiator at the north-south economic dialogue here praised President Carter's sense of justice yesterday and said he exerted a beneficial influence at last week's London Summit of the industrial democracies.

Dr. Manuel Perez Guerrero told a news conference the seven-nation summit showed a

distinct change of attitude by the wealthy nations, offering a bigger chance of success for the Paris conference.

After 18 months of meagre progress in its discussions on a fairer distribution of the world's wealth, the Paris dialogue moves into its final ministerial session on May 30.

As co-chairman and leading spokesman for the developing countries, Dr. Perez Guerrero, a Venezuelan minister of state, occupies a key position in the dialogue.

Answering questions about Mr. Carter's role at the meeting, Dr. Perez Guerrero said developing countries were pleased at the impact the United States president had made.

"We have the impression that we can now expect fuller understanding of our problems," Dr. Perez Guerrero added.

# ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

\* WASHINGTON, May 18 (AFP). — Housing starts were running at an annual rate of 1,875,000 units last month in the United States, statistics showed Tuesday. They represented a decrease of 11 per cent compared with March. But the rate was 35 per cent higher than in April 1976, the Department of Commerce said.

\* TEHRAN, May 18 (R). — The state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) last year sold 55.4 million tonnes of crude worth \$4.6 billion directly to 35 customers, its chairman, Dr. Manouchehr Eghbal, said. Oil output last year totalled 294.8 million metric tonnes, up 10 per cent over 1975.

\* OSAKA, Japan, May 18 (AFP). — Airlines will start using wide-bodied airbuses at Osaka International Airport tomorrow in a bid to reduce noise problems, the transport ministry announced. It took more than three years for the transport ministry to persuade local residents to accept its plan, which officials say is the only way to reduce noise and number of flights at Osaka.

\* NEW DELHI, May 18 (AFP). — The week old strike by a section of Bombay dock workers worsened today when about 1,500 personnel engaged in dredging operations stopped work in response to a call by the Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union. The port trust management called in the Indian navy yesterday as a "last resort" when workers refused to handle passenger ships, oil tankers and vessels carrying defence cargo.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	149.0	149.1
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.3	93.5
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.2
Syrian pound	81.0	81.3
Iraqi dinar	947.0	958.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,146.0	1,150.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.6	85.0

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market Monday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One dollar	2.3570/80	West German marks
	2.4550/65	Dutch guilders
	2.5210/20	Swiss francs
	36.140/155	Belgian francs
	4.9533/43	French francs
	886.25/45	Italian lira
	277.50/60	Japanese yen
	4.3600/10	Swedish crowns
	5.2705/800	Norwegian crowns
	6.0175/90	Danish crowns

## WALL STREET REPORT

Prices made a straight gain Wednesday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average rose more than five points in very active trading. This average has now gained nearly 18 points in the last four sessions.

American investors have been in an optimistic mood since the beginning of the week and they also responded favourably to a comment from President Carter against the so-called double taxation of dividends.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a two to one margin (954 to 470) as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to higher tone with the exception of gold mines.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 941.91, a gain of 5.43 points; Transp at 246.64, a gain of 2.92; utilities at 111.93, a gain of 0.54. 27,810,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,200,000 during the last hour.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed slightly higher in selective buying. At 15:00 the FT index was up 7.2 at 475.4.

Government stocks were higher by around 1/2 point in longs and shorts put on 1/8 to 1/4.

Some leading industrials finished slightly below the day's highs with gains of around 8p dealers report.

Oils were led higher by B.P., up 20p on unconfirmed reports of new North Sea oil finds, while Shell rose 12p. Mining shares continued easier and Australians also eased while Canadians were unchanged.

Davy International featured in generally firm engineering with a net rise of 11p contract dealers said. Among companies reporting results today, RHM erased a rise of 1/2p after interim figures while Woolworth edged slightly higher after its results, dealers added.

Leading equities had gains of 7p to 9p in ICI, Fisons, Lucas, Unilever, EMI and GKN while Bectham was a net 6p higher after 5p. Rises of 3p to 5p scored by Glaxo, Courtauld, Marks, BAT, Hawker and Tubes.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$146.90/oz.

قوى الحارس

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1977

# Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The financial side of your life needs more attention. Put more concentrated effort into any scheme that will bring in more revenue. Postpone any plans you may have for socializing.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Discuss a new plan with close ties and business experts and gain their cooperation. Take care of neglected correspondence.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do what you can to add to present income and property, but be sure to use ethical methods. Have a heart-to-heart talk with a loved one.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Contact friends who can be helpful in gaining your personal and business aims. Take health treatments that improve your vitality for busy days ahead. Think more clearly.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to July 21) Use common-sense methods in handling a personal problem. Talk over the future with mate and come to right decisions.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Meet with good friends and interesting new acquaintances as much good can come of this. Get support for projects you have in mind.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Show more enthusiasm for the civic work you have to do and get better results than in the past. Follow through on any valuable information that comes your way.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your intuition is good and should be followed. New ideas stand a good chance of succeeding. Take no risks where reputation is concerned.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have responsibilities that can be worked out satisfactorily now. Clear up a misunderstanding with mate, loved one. But be tactful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to cooperate more with associates than you have in the past. Add to the prestige you now enjoy.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Home activities deserve special attention now. Entertain friends, kin at home. Talks with elders result in sound advice.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You find better ways of dealing with friends. Show particular devotion to mate, loved one and be happier. Think constructively.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Although it may be difficult for you, try to get into the good graces of important persons. Be cautious and look ahead to avoid trouble.

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 店飯光觀導量  
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 Welcome and enjoy our typical delicious Chinese food.  
 Many many thanks for your kindly patronage.

**TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE**  
**BRADY BUNCH : GOING STEADY**  
 One of the Brady-girls falls in love with a fellow student.

**SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN : TO CATCH AN EAGLE**  
 Steve has to submit to various tests of courage by Indians before he is allowed to enter their territory to search for two lost scientists.

**OUT AND ABOUT**  
**Captain's Cabin**  
 The fashionable restaurant for you. Grindsays Bank Street. Tel. 2197. A.Q.A.R.A. Open for lunch & dinner. Specialty Italian cuisine. Live music and dancing.

**CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
 First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abayeh School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service-order by phone.

**QUICK MEAL**  
 Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21983. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 38946. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarqa and Irbid.

**THE DIPLOMAT**  
 First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25582. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38969. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

### PEANUTS

OKAY, PARTNER.

LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT... I HATE TO LOSE!

I'LL MAKE ALL THE LINE CALLS AND TAKE ALL THE OVERHEADS! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GUARD YOUR ALLEY!

AND JUST ONE SMART REMARK ABOUT MY FAT LEGS GETS YOU A KNOCK ON THE NOGGIN!!

### ANDY GAPP

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU—ME OR MY PURSE!

MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, Y'KNOW!

TRUE, PETE, TRUE.

— BUT IT HELPS YOU TO LOOK FOR IT IN A LOT MORE PLACES

### MUTT & JEFF

NOW LOOK, IF WE'RE GONNA BE PARTNERS IN THIS BUSINESS WE GOTTA BE CAREFUL AND EFFICIENT!

THANK YOU, MRS. MURPHY!

JEFF, I'VE BEEN WATCHING— YOU DON'T RING UP EVERY SALE! YOU PUT THAT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!

YEH— IT SAVES WEAR AND TEAR ON OUR CASH REGISTER!

### THE FLINTSTONES

PHEW!... THE NEWS IS FINALLY OVER... NOW I CAN TURN ON THE T-V!

### LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

"And that's not just my opinion, it's yours, too."

### THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

"The way you fuss about every dime a person would think it was YOUR money!"

### WORLD RECORD

The largest collection of credit cards is one of 537 (all different) by Walter Cavanaugh (born 1943) of Santa Clara, California, USA. The cost of acquisition was nil.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
 © 1977 by Chicago Tribune

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠K109 ♣AQ8752 ♦K7 ♣K3  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 South West North East  
 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass  
 ?

What action do you take?  
 A.—Three no trump. While partner's action is not forcing, we would take a stab at game. Our king of clubs is a most important card. At this vulnerability, partner must have a long club suit headed by the ace-queen and an outside card, or a sure entry if he is missing the ace of clubs.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠AQ10872 ♣8 ♢954 ♣AK6

What action do you take?  
 A.—Pass. Bear in mind that North did not respond to your opening bid. Therefore, he cannot have 7 points in high cards, or he would surely have kept the bidding open with one no trump. North must have a long, weak diamond suit, and if you attempt to play in no trump, his hand might not even furnish a single trick. He is already bidding your cards—the opponents' silence has told him you have a good hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠K83 ♣95 ♢75 ♣J109742  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 West North East South  
 1 ♣ Pass 1NT Pass  
 Pass Dble. Pass 2 ♣  
 Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?

What action do you take?  
 A.—Pass. Obviously, partner has a good hand with long hearts. That accounts for his failure to take action immediately over the opening bid. With a doubleton heart and a side doubleton, you have no reason to try to find a better spot.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠AJ1093 ♣86532 ♦106 ♣6  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South  
 1 ♣ 1 ♣ ?

What action do you take?  
 A.—We would raise no objection if you elected to preempt with four hearts—that might keep the opponents out of a makeable minor-suit contract. However, our own preference leans slightly toward a quiet raise to two hearts. Our only high cards are in the opponents' suit and that might not prove too helpful to partner. It is ingenious to double one spade—that would certainly drive the opponents to a better spot.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠Q95 ♣A8763 ♣KQ10 ♢J8  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
 2 ♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
 A.—You have splendid values, so don't discount the possibility of slam. A bid of two no trump would be a severe understatement. Three no trump is a more constructive effort, but we favor the delicate, probing bid of three diamonds. It might elicit a heart raise from partner, and also makes it more convenient for him to rebid a five-card spade suit.

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
 by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAYLE

NAISE

BABFLY

DEGELP

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CROAK AWASH FELONY NUMBER  
 Answer: What you might hear when your dog gets into a "tangle"—A "SNARL"

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS  
 1. Diminishes  
 7. Wild  
 12. Nail polish  
 13. Stadium  
 14. Cells  
 15. Ceremonies  
 16. Monolithic stambs

DOWN  
 17. Fish  
 19. Aspre  
 20. Enchantress  
 22. Dispute  
 24. Man's greatest adversary

27. Fish net  
 29. Daze  
 31. Carried over  
 32. Craving  
 33. Granite porphyry  
 35. Fuzz  
 37. 100 pounds of nails  
 38. Concert  
 41. Theater boxes  
 43. Little boy  
 45. French river  
 46. Gift  
 47. Tin-lead coating  
 48. Pineapples

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE  
 4. Ratle bird  
 5. Confidence  
 6. Avalanche  
 7. Remote  
 8. Silkworm  
 9. Sequestered  
 10. Windflower  
 11. --- Vegas  
 18. Ervil  
 20. Enthusiastic  
 21. Mohammedian sabs  
 23. Marry  
 24. Puppen  
 25. Sandy  
 26. Brilliant bird  
 28. Cotton-seeder  
 30. B.P.O.E. member  
 40. Leftovers  
 39. Cheek  
 41. Ignited  
 42. Determine  
 44. Wing

Par time 35 min. AP Neustaters

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION	RBC RADIO	AMMAN AIRPORT
Channel 2 & 4: 6:00 Quran 6:05 Children's programme 6:50 English by television 7:00 Brady bunch Channel 3: 7:30 Science and life 8:30 Quiz programme	GMT 6:00 News, 24 hours 6:30 Radio World 6:45 The World Today 6:50 News; Press Review 6:55 News; 24 hours 7:00 Sarah Ward 7:05 Book Choice 7:10 News 7:15 International Soccer 7:20 Farming World 7:25 The World Today 7:30 Financial News 7:35 Music Now 7:40 Concert hour 7:45 Old favorites 7:50 Easy listening 7:55 Something to say 8:00 Pop session 8:05 News summary 8:10 Pop session 8:15 News summary 8:20 Pop session 8:25 News summary 8:30 News reports 8:35 Sign off	Arrivals: 6:15 Damascus (SAA) 6:45 Bangkok, Bahrain 7:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi 7:25 Tehran 7:35 Cairo (EA) 8:10 Bahrain, Kuwait 8:45 Abaha (SAA) 9:00 Beirut 11:00 Rome, Brussels 12:00 Cairo 12:30 Athens, Madrid 12:45 Kuwait (KAC) 13:05 London (BA) 21:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SAD) 21:55 Abu Dhabi 22:30 Bahrain, Bangkok
RADIO JORDAN	VOICE OF AMERICA	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
7:30 Breakfast show 7:30 News 7:45 News reports 8:00 Sign off 12:00 Pop session 13:00 News summary 13:05 Pop session 14:00 News 14:10 Radio magazine 14:30 Play of the week	GMT 06:00 The Breakfast Show : to 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT : News, 19:30 06:30 Headlines and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 02:00, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An informal presenta- tion of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Sci- ence Digest, 17:30 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinions, Ad- alyses, News Summary 17:30	Ambulance (government) Tel. 78111 Civil defense rooms = 2689-4 = 2899 Fire headquarters = 18 Fire aid, fire, police = 3881-2 Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) = 37111-3 Municipal water service (emergency) = 38143 Police headquarters = 21111, 37777 Nakhla, waving patrol rescue police, Ghaithi (spokes) 24 hours a day for emergency help Airport Information (AIA) = 6285
EMERGENCIES	Cultural Centres	AMMAN MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
Doctors: Amman: Jamil Zuhbi Matar (37824) Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil (6200) Irbid: Mohammad Sardaash Ghazi Qudusht Zarqa: Abdel Karim Khashabash (63272) T.A.S.: Al Hussein Youth (63275) Baitouh (6767) Taha (62201) Alia (21177) Adhlan	Special English, News, Features : Science in the News, News Summary, News Music USA Headlines and Reports, Actualities, Opinions, Ad-lyses, VOA Magazine, American, Science, Cultural, Letters, Special English News, News Summary, News Music USA (Am.), VOA World Report : News, newspaper voices... News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinions, Ad-lyses, News Summary 21:30	Tel. 41039 = 38542-4 = 2899 = 18 = 3881-2 = 37111-3 = 38143 = 21111, 37777 = 6285

# China, USSR clash over Zaire at Maputo's meet

MAPUTO, Mozambique, May 18 (AFP). — China and the Soviet Union clashed here today over the rebellion in Zaire's copper-rich Shaba Province by former Katangese guerrillas.

Chinese Charge d'Affaires in Maputo, Chao Yuan, made a violent verbal attack on the Soviet Union over its African policy. He was speaking on the

third day of the United Nations-sponsored conference here in support of Southern African liberation movements.

He accused the "new tsars" of having instigated the invasion of Shaba by numerous "mercenaries", thus compromising the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zaire.

Zaire has accused Angola,

Cuba and the Soviet Union of being behind the March 8 invasion of Shaba by the former Katangese gendarmes. All three countries have denied the charge.

While Mr. Chao did not specifically name Cuba, his use of the word "mercenaries" clearly designated Cuban forces stationed in Angola.

Bracketing the United States and the Soviet Union together, Mr. Chao affirmed that rivalry between the superpowers and "social-imperialist expansion" had considerably increased the complexity of the Southern African situation.

Soviet spokesman Pyotr Evsiukov, the Ambassador to Mozambique, hastily scribbled a response to Mr. Chao as the Chinese delegate attacked his nation. For the Soviet side, the Chinese allegations were "erroneous and slanderous" accusations against the Soviet Union.

Mr. Evsiukov said it was clear that such slander was aimed at distracting the conference from its constructive and serious discussion of the mobilisation of efficient aid to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The Soviet spokesman accused China of having allied itself with imperialism and reactionary forces.

The Cuban delegate made a similar response, Cuban Communist Party Central Committee member Raul Valdez Vivo said the Chinese attitude could only help imperialism and reactionaries in Africa.

# French leftists' joint programme to be updated

PARIS, May 18 (AFP). — The three leaders of France's left-wing opposition alliance yesterday set up a working party to update their joint programme of government.

M. Francois Mitterrand of the Socialist Party, M. Georges Marchais for the Communists and M. Robert Fabre, leader of the Left Radical group, agreed at a "summit" meeting that the programme should be updated as soon as possible, in principle by the beginning of the summer.

Legislative elections, which the left hopes it will win, are scheduled for next March at the latest. The original joint programme was first formulated by the three parties in 1972.

Participants at yesterday's meeting said they had not discussed detailed figures of the

cost of the programme but agreed to work out a timetable and means of application of proposed measures.

Unilateral publication by the Communist Party last week of detailed costing of proposed nationalisations, pay rises and welfare measures embarrassed its leftist allies while government ministers seized on the document, criticising the party's figures as unrealistic. M. Mitterrand has categorically rejected the Communist figures.

M. Marchais said yesterday that there had been no recriminations over his party's figures and that the meeting was "relaxed". M. Fabre said that in any case it was too early to quote figures, since the alliance did not know what the economic situation would be "when it took power."

# 28 nations sign treaty banning "weather weapon"

GENEVA, May 18 (R). — The United States, the Soviet Union and 26 other nations today pledged that they would never attack each other by starting man-made storms, earthquakes or tidal waves.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko were among the 28 special envoys here who signed a United Nations pact banning artificial use of the weather as a weapon of war.

The U.N. Secretary General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, said the treaty, negotiated last year by the Geneva Disarmament Conference, was aimed at sparing

mankind from "the disastrous results of new and terrible means of environmental warfare."

He said: "Arms control and disarmament are the overriding issues facing the international community. This convention shows that governments, with all their differences and divisions, can achieve progress little by little."

The "Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques" is the first accord to emerge from the slow-moving Geneva Disarmament Conference for four years.

Mr. Waldheim said: "From the very first resolution passed by the General Assembly in 1946, the United Nations has striven to achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control."

"Viewed in this long-term perspective, the convention is a modest one, for it points up what we still have far to go before we reach that goal."

Representatives signed in English alphabetical order as their names were called by a Senior U.N. official.

Apart from Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Vance, the eight other foreign ministers taking part

were all from communist countries -- Mr. Peter Mladenov of Bulgaria; Mr. Bohuslav Choupek, Czechoslovakia; Mr. Oskar Fischer, East Germany; Mr. Frigyes Puga, Hungary; Mr. Magalyu Dugasuren, Mongolia; Mr. Emil Wojtaszek, Poland; and the foreign ministers of the Bielorussian and Ukrainian Soviet Republics.

Romania alone of the communist countries which signed sent its permanent representative in Geneva, Ambassador Constantin Ene.

Deputy Foreign Minister Lord Goronwy Roberts signed for Britain.

Other states represented by permanent representatives in Geneva or senior foreign ministry officials, were: Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, West Germany, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Uganda and Yemen.

# Britain seems to have found a way to keep Idi Amin from coming to London

LONDON, May 18, (Agencies). — A writ was yesterday issued against Ugandan President Idi Amin over the presumed death of Mrs. Dora Bloch who disappeared from a Kampala hospital after Israel's raid on Entebbe Airport last July to free hijacked passengers.

The writ, claiming civil damages, could be served on President Amin should he come

to Britain next month for the Commonwealth leaders conference.

The plaintiff is Mr. Ian Hartuv, 50, Mrs. Bloch's eldest son. He lives in Israel and was travelling with his mother on the Air France Airbus to Entebbe when it was hijacked by guerrillas.

Mrs. Bloch, who held both British and Israeli passports was separated from the other hostages when, suffering food poisoning, she was admitted to hospital.

Mr. Hartuv claims in the writ his mother's death was caused by the "negligence or deliberate act or acts of the defendants their servants and agents."

Mr. Greville Janner a British member of parliament, said the family did not want compensation.

The Labour M.P., a lawyer, said: "President Amin, as head of a Commonwealth country, will have what is called 'sovereign immunity'. However, he is entitled to waive that immunity in both civil and criminal proceedings. If he maintains that he is innocent of the death of Mrs. Bloch then he should be prepared to present himself at the bar of British justice."

Ugandan officials have said that Mrs. Bloch was returned to join the other hostages before the Israeli attack on the airport.

The writ named a second Ugandan, Maj. Farik Minawa, a member of President Amin's State Research Bureau, who has been accused by the Labour M.P. of having murdered Mrs. Bloch.

He too could find himself the defendant in a lawsuit if he attempted to enter Britain.

# Portugal determined on full ties with Israel

LISBON, May 18 (R). — Portugal said today it would not reverse its decision to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Foreign Ministry here released a communique following calls by Arab countries for Portugal to either cancel or delay its recent decision to elevate diplomatic relations with Israel to ambassadorial level.

The communique said: "Reports have come to light about a possible delay in raising diplomatic relations between Portugal and Israel to ambassadorial level. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs... reaffirms the irreversibility of the decisions taken."

The ministry's note denied local press reports that the Egyptian ambassador to Portugal was received by Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Medeiros Ferreira and added that such an audience had not been requested by the envoy.

Portugal's minority Socialist government had announced in its programme when taking office a year ago that full diplomatic relations would be sought with all countries.

# Djibouti plans to join Arab League

CAIRO, May 18 (AFP). — Djibouti, once independent, will join the Arab League, the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) as a protection against foreign expansionist aims, Premier Hassan Gouled said in an interview published today in the Cairo daily Al-Ahram.

"We regard our membership of these three organisations as a safeguard for our tiny state which is coveted for its strategic location," Mr. Gouled said.

He said Djibouti would follow a neutral policy towards its two neighbours Somalia and Ethiopia as the only means of protecting national unity and avoiding civil war.

Mr. Gouled's government is divided equally between Afars, traditionally linked to Ethiopia, and Somali-related Issas.

Mr. Gouled said Djibouti would no longer tolerate Ethiopian sovereignty over certain Djibouti Port facilities granted under an existing treaty with France.

"We want an amendment to the agreement concluded with Ethiopia because we will not permit the shipment of military equipment to Ethiopia in the event of war in the region," he said.

Mr. Gouled said Djibouti would have its own army made up largely of the 3,200 local soldiers now serving with the 11,000 strong French force in the territory.

He said Djibouti would probably retain between 2,000 and 2,500 French troops for "external" defence purposes for a limited period until the national army was properly organised.

Mr. Gouled said this plan

had the approval of all parties in Djibouti. But he added: "I can state, however, that we will never allow our country to become a military base for any power seeking its interests in the Red Sea."

Mr. Gouled went on to refer to Djibouti's daunting economic problems. He said: "Unemployment will go up by 80 per cent when the French leave... We will have an urgent need of international aid."

He said he had recently discussed this problem with Saudi Arabian leaders and was

also hoping for help from Egypt, Al-Ahram reported.

Meanwhile, the French cabinet today formally set June 27 as the date for the independence of Djibouti.

The cabinet was acting on the wishes of the territory's electorate, who voted overwhelmingly for independence in a referendum on May 8, according to a communique.

The territory would accede on June 27 "to international sovereignty, in conformity with agreement entered into with officials of its principal organisation," the communique said.

# Bandaranaike dissolves Sri Lankan parliament

COLOMBO, May 18 (AFP). — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike dissolved the parliament here tonight.

Informed sources said the move came to avoid a confrontation with the opposition.

Political observers had predicted a clash tomorrow when parliament returned after a three month prorogation. The opposition planned a debate on a long-standing vote of no confidence on the government handling of strikes earlier this year. A similar motion in February prompted Mrs. Bandaranaike to prorogue parliament.

President William Gopallawa issued a proclamation tonight

fixing July 21 as the date for general election.

The opposition had intended to use the two-day sitting before the parliament ended its natural five year term to obtain statements from 13 members of the government who crossed over to the opposition during the political crisis.

Opposition leader Mr. J. R. Jayewardene had also given notice that he would raise a matter of breach of privilege over government attempts to impound his passport.

By dissolving parliament, Mrs. Bandaranaike has avoided further embarrassing defections from her ruling Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP) to Mr. Jayewardene's United National Party or the Socialist United Front.

including the FLCS, but did not encourage and organise terrorist movements.

"The activities of the liberation movements to regain their independence cannot be termed as terrorism, but as genuine moves to liberate themselves from colonialist oppression," the spokesman said.

Commenting on the kidnapping of the French ambassador by the FLCS, the spokesman said the incident was in fact successfully settled through the mediation of the Somali government.

The State Department letter said it was generally agreed that the Somali government supported the Front for the Liberation of the Somali Coast (FLCS), which has been fighting for independence for the

# Pakistan's Pir Pagaro freed from custody

ISLAMABAD, May 18 (R). — Religious leader Pir Pagaro, who is also one of Pakistan's opposition politicians, was freed from house arrest here today on the third day of an uprising by his fanatical Hur followers in southern Pakistan.

Sources close to Pir Pagaro said fighting was continuing today in the town of Sanghar, on the edge of the Thar Desert some 350 kms. north of Karachi.

Troops yesterday moved into Sanghar, home town of Pir Pagaro, in an effort to stop clashes between the Hur tribesmen and police.

The trouble began on Monday when the Hurs learned that Pir Pagaro, who in recent weeks

has become an important leader in opposition agitation against the government, had been placed under house arrest in the federal capital of Islamabad the previous day.

No accurate casualty figures were available from Sanghar, but reliable sources estimated at least 20 people had been injured in gun battles on the first two days. There were unconfirmed reports that several people had been killed.

The Hurs were not acting under instructions from Pir Pagaro, opposition sources said. The situation would be much worse if he called on them to take up arms against the government, the sources added.

The release of Pir Pagaro had been expected. He was originally served with a three-day detention order, which ran out today.

# Somalia rejects U.S. statements linking it with "terrorist" acts

MOGADISHU, May 18 (R). — Somalia has described a U.S. State Department report linking it with French and American groups as "a baseless lie."

A Somali government spokesman was referring yesterday to congressional correspondence made public earlier this month, including a State Department letter to Sen. Jacob Javits on "terrorism" which referred to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, Iraq, South Yemen and Somalia as supporting terrorist groups.

The State Department letter said it was generally agreed that the Somali government supported the Front for the Liberation of the Somali Coast (FLCS), which has been fighting for independence for the

French-run Territory of the Afars and the Issas (Djibouti). The letter, however, made clear that there was no evidence that two major incidents involving the front, including the seizure of the French ambassador to Somalia in 1975, were carried out with the Somali government's knowledge.

The Somali spokesman described the accusations as "a baseless lie, intended to mislead world public opinion."

He said Somalia extended support to liberation movements,

including the FLCS, but did not encourage and organise terrorist movements.

"The activities of the liberation movements to regain their independence cannot be termed as terrorism, but as genuine moves to liberate themselves from colonialist oppression," the spokesman said.

Commenting on the kidnapping of the French ambassador by the FLCS, the spokesman said the incident was in fact successfully settled through the mediation of the Somali government.

Pir Pagaro later issued a strong statement against the government, in his capacity as acting president of the nine-party opposition — Pakistan National Alliance (PNA).

He reiterated that the only solution to Pakistan's present political crisis was for Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to resign and hold fresh general elections.

Pir Pagaro denounced Mr. Bhutto's proposal to hold a referendum on whether he should stay on as prime minister, saying it was impossible to have a free and fair vote under the present government.

# Chile offers to exchange 13 detainees with Soviet Union

SANTIAGO, May 18 (R). — Chile said last night it was ready to release 13 prisoners in exchange for an equal number of political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

A Foreign Ministry statement said it would leave the Copenhagen-based Sakharov Human Rights Committee to choose the Soviet detainees who should be freed in the exchange.

The statement said the Chileans to be released had been tried and convicted here for "violating state security". It stressed that they were "common prisoners" not political detainees.

Last year Chile's military government released detained Chilean Communist Party leader Luis Corvalan in exchange for Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky.

The Sakharov Committee, which is named after dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, put forward the original proposal for the Corvalan-Bukovsky swap.

Chile has in the past said that with the release of Mr. Corvalan it only holds one other political prisoner -- former Communist Sen. Jorge Montecinos.

It has repeatedly offered to exchange Sen. Montecinos in return for the release from an Havana jail of Mr. Huber Matos, a former top aide of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro, but Cuba has rejected the deal.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the latest Chilean move was in response to a call in February by the Sakharov Committee.

In April the committee provided a list of 13 political prisoners in Soviet jails for a proposed swap with imprisoned Chileans.

The list included Soviet Baptist leader Georgy Vins, writer Vladimir Osipov, psychiatrist Semyon Gluzmand and three women.

The intention of the U.S. government to retain both U.S. and Nationalist Chinese ambassadors in their respective capitals is regarded here as tending to show that the Carter administration wishes to maintain the status quo with the People's Republic of China.

This appears to be in line with the recent decision to appoint Mr. Leonard Woodcock, President of the United Auto Workers Trade Union, as the new chief of the U.S. liaison office in Peking, rather than Mr. Mike Mansfield, retired Senate Majority Leader, and a strong advocate of immediate U.S. diplomatic recognition of the Peking government.

Five years after the publication of the Shanghai Communiqué by then President Richard Nixon and the late Premier Chou En-lai, the United States government has still acted cautiously and responsibly as regards the triangular relationship between Washington, Taipei and Peking.

Diplomatic sources here noted with deep interest the appointment of Mr. Woodcock to

Peking, a development which reportedly upset both the State Department as well as the Peking regime.

Mr. Woodcock's appointment is viewed as indicating that President Carter has no plan, at least in the immediate future, to quicken the pace of implementing the Shanghai Communiqué, diplomatic sources asserted.

Furthermore, the appointment of a complete outsider also shows President Carter's intention to rid normalisation of relations with Peking of any influence from the State Department, where opinions on the issue often vary between two extremes, the sources added.

The Chinese Nationalists have remained static in so far as their Ambassador in Washington, Mr. James Shen, is concerned in spite of what is considered as the unreasonable treatment he has received in the past seven years. He has been, among other things, de-

nied access to the two top men in the State Department except on rare social occasions.

The Nationalist have not made any move because they know only too well that once a replacement is suggested the U.S. government might withhold its consent as a result of Chinese Communist intervention.

By the same token, the U.S. government is known to have no intention of replacing its incumbent Ambassador, Mr. Leonard Unger, in Taipei.

Mr. Holbrooke visited Taipei in April with a congressional mission headed by Mr. Lester Wolf, Chairman of the House Sub-Committee for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Nevertheless, informed sources said that the Nationalist Chinese government did twice probe the possibility of replacing its ambassador in Washington, once following Mr. Richard Nixon's resignation and the other when Mr. Carter was elected President.

# WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

\* MOSCOW, May 18 (R). — Eight Soviet Germans overpowered police guards and forced their way into the West German Embassy here today seeking help to get them out of the Soviet Union. Police reinforcements quickly surrounded the entrance to the embassy in a secluded street in central Moscow. A ninth ethnic German was arrested in the two-minute struggle with three police guards, which took place after the men emerged silently from a park and reached the embassy as it was opening for the day. The eight who got inside the building told reporters they were seeking help from embassy officials after being refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union to West Germany.

\* KUWAIT, May 18 (AFP). — Egypt has sent 33,000 troops to help Sudan stiffen defence along its border with Ethiopia in the event of hostilities between them, the daily al-Qabas reported here today. Egypt decided the measure after Sudan announced that it would give Eritrean guerrillas training facilities on its soil. Tension between Ethiopia and Sudan stems from President Jaafar Nimer's backing for the Eritrean cause against Ethiopia's pro-Soviet military government.

\* ALEXANDRIA, May 18 (R). — The multi-billion dollar Arab Military Industrial Organisation (AMIO) ended two days of meetings here yesterday on plans for the production of advanced weapons in the Arab World. There was no official statement about the results of the meetings, attended by the war ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. With headquarters in Cairo, the Arab organisation hopes to develop and manufacture helicopters, jet fighters and missiles.

\* ALEXANDRIA, May 18 (R). — President Anwar Sadat and Sultan Qabus of Oman today attended naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean with live ammunition. Egyptian destroyers and new naval units, including British-built Hovercrafts, took part in the exercises.

\* LONDON, May 18 (R). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen hopes to visit Israel for talks in the summer, probably in July, informed British sources said here today. But definite arrangements about the visit will have to be made after the formation of a new Israeli government following yesterday's general election.

\* LOS ANGELES, May 18 (R). — Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last night appealed to Americans to unite behind the Carter administration in its conduct of foreign affairs. "For over a decade we have carried out our domestic debates with the attitude of near civil war conditions," Dr. Kissinger said at a business convention. "The U.S. now has an opportunity of taming nuclear weapons, bring about peace in Africa and the Middle East, of strengthening friendship with democracies and easing tension with our adversaries. Whether we can do this depends on the unity of the American people and the confidence between its leadership and the public. To this great task all of us, in or out of government, have an obligation to dedicate ourselves," Dr. Kissinger said.

# Privileged few will board Europe's legendary Orient Express on its last journey today

By Adrian Darmon

PARIS, May 18 (R). — When Europe's legendary Orient-Express begins its last journey to Istanbul this week, the train will be carrying its own sandwiches and water.

The train favoured and glamorised for decades by aristocrats, millionaires, diplomats and spies, has long since been stripped of its corded blue restaurant and splendidly liveried attendants.

The final Orient Express service leaving Paris tomorrow night will be distinctly modest compared with the days when the Europe to Asia express was called the "Train of Kings".

Clients in the "belle époque" of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included such personalities as Abdul Hamid, the Sultan of Turkey. He travelled with his harem and no ticket collector dared check the carriage specially hired for the wives.

King Leopold II of Belgium added to its lustre when he travelled in the train. The operating company, Compagnie des Wagons Lits, always added an extra car for his mistress Cleo de Merode.

Only one of the Express' carriages has been travelling to Istanbul in recent years, and it is modern and mundane compared with the former opulence of velvet-lined coaches decorated with crystal chandeliers and ornate furniture.

Some 300 enthusiasts begged the company for seats on the final run of the train whose aura of mystery attracted writers as a setting for spy-thrillers, murder and romance.

For the last journey Wagons Lits wanted to add two or three sleeping cars but French Railways, the overall authority, rejected the request, invoking reasons to economy.

A carriage, known since 1962 as the "Direct-Orient", is the last relic of the Orient Express inaugurated in 1883. It is tagged onto a train headed for Belgrade. At the Yugoslav capital it is detached and linked to another bound via Bulgaria for Istanbul's Sirkeci Station, the last terminus in Europe.

Across the Bosphorus lies Asia.

In days of old when English lords, Russian grand dukes and central European princes arrived, there were colourful welcomes, in Istanbul. Men in Fezzes and turbans, baggy trousers and embroidered waistcoats, gathered at the station to transport the visitors to Istanbul's European quarter of Pera.

The ceramic-tiled bars and

# Shanghai was close to civil war just after Mao's death

PEKING, May 18 (R). — Six million rounds of ammunition were issued to Shanghai Militia the day after Chairman Mao Tse-tung died as part of a radical plot to take over China, it was officially reported here yesterday.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) recounted how close China's largest city came to civil war in the tense 27 days last autumn between Chairman Mao's death and the arrest of the radical "gang of four" led by his widow Chiang Ching.

It said that on Sept. 28 Shanghai's Mayor Chang Chun-chiao -- a member of the purged group -- issued "verbal mobilisation orders" to his followers there, stating "battle is imminent."

The million-strong Shanghai Militia was supposed to instigate the rebellion, NCNA said.

The "gang's" followers in Shanghai "deployed army units, set up secret command posts... and plotted to blow up bridges and stop water and electricity supplies in a counter-revolutionary armed coup," the agency added.

But with the Oct. 6 arrest of the four radicals -- Mrs. Chiang Ching, Mr. Chang Chun-chiao, Mr. Wang Hong-wen and Mr. Yao Wen-yuan -- the plot was smashed. Not one of the six million bullets was fired, according to NCNA.

The account contained few previously unpublished allegations but said the radicals had devised a scheme to split the People's Liberation Army "and lop off its leadership."

It also looked more closely at Mr. Wang Hong-wen's role, charging that after Chairman Mao's death he attempted to cut communications between Communist Party headquarters and Premier Hua Kuo-feng.

Mr. Wang, who stood third in succession to Chairman Mao on the party ladder, had ordered the central office to refer important issues to him and not Mr. Hua, it added.

"This was an attempt to cut off communications between the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng and the party Committees of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions so that the gang could issue orders and maintain control of the country," according to the agency.

And the great train's last customers will return home by air.